



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 147**

**TO:** Monica Tonel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email  
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig, Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**Cc:** Denise Mills, TAI – via Email

**DATE:** October 10, 2018

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 147 Month Ending September 2018

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Plant Tissue Study – Processing and analysis of samples collected during the August 2018 field sampling continued during the month of September and finalized laboratory reports and data summaries were provided to TAI's third party validator for them to begin validation.

Northern Pike Tissue Study – TAI's contract laboratory continued analysis of the northern pike fillet tissue composite samples per the quality assurance project plan (QAPP) in September and finalized laboratory reports and data summaries were provided to TAI's third party validator for them to begin validation. EPA delivered the draft Northern Pike Field Summary Report to TAI for review and comment on September 18, 2018 and at the time of writing, TAI delivered comments to EPA on October 2, 2018.

Soil Amendment Technology Evaluation Study (SATES) – TAI continued coordination with the SATES team and Kira Lynch, Superfund Technology Liaison with the Office of Research and Development, Office of Science and Policy during the month. On September 6, 2018 TAI hosted a Technical Team call during which TAI described the Phase II bench-scale testing soil collection; shared amendment pre-screening results; and presented a flow chart summarizing key events for SATES Phase IA, IB, and II, along with an updated SATES schedule for the period from fall 2018 through November 2019. Activities also included addressing Citizens for a Clean Columbia comments on the draft Phase I Data

Summary Report with TAI response to comments (expected to be returned in October 2018), and delivery of the draft Phase II bench-scale testing soil collection work plan on September 17, 2018 for Technical Team review.

#### Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) Toxicity Reference Value (TRV) Development:

Wildlife TRVs - TAI delivered the draft final Wildlife TRV document to EPA on September 21, 2018 in response to a letter from EPA dated April 11, 2018 with comments from EPA and the Participating Parties on the draft document.

Soil TRVs – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated July 25, 2018 with comments on a brief memorandum TAI submitted to EPA in June to document the change in approach for soil TRVs. Two conference calls were held with EPA during the month of September to discuss EPA's comments and possible path forward and TAI is currently revising the document for delivery to EPA in October.

Sediment and Porewater TRVs – TAI is in receipt of a letter dated August 24, 2018 with comments on the draft Sediment and Porewater TRV document TAI delivered to EPA on July 16, 2018 and is currently reviewing and evaluating the comments. A conference call was held with EPA during the month of September to discuss certain comments needing clarification.

Phase 3 Sediment Study – TAI obtained all necessary permits and permissions to conduct the Facies Mapping field work at the UCR upper reach operable unit, including the National Park Service Permit received on September 24, 2018. Field work began on September 25, 2018 with the field crew establishing survey control points. At the time of writing, work on the water collecting survey data began on October 2, 2018 and will continue for the month. Pilot study field work for the porewater sampling and sediment sampling with a freeze grab sampler was conducted during the week of September 24, 2018 and the benthic macroinvertebrate reconnaissance survey was conducted during the week of September 18, 2018.

Background Soil Assessment – TAI received comments from EPA on the Preliminary Draft Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) for Determination of Background Metal and Metalloid Concentrations in Upland Soils on July 31, 2018 and delivered the draft DQOs to EPA on September 7, 2018.

Delineation Study – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated May 25, 2018 transmitting EPA's Air Modeling Protocol Outline for the Delineation Study. TAI is currently reviewing and evaluating the outline and developing of a draft protocol based on the outline in coordination with EPA. TAI delivered preliminary draft DQOs for the delineation study to EPA on September 27, 2018 for review and comment.

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) – Conference calls were held during the month of September to continue discussion between EPA and TAI regarding further comments on EPA’s preliminary draft River-Associated Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment: Upper Columbia River Site and regarding the draft Recreational Use Survey Data Analysis Report. At the time of writing, TAI submitted a technical memorandum to EPA titled “Use of Residential Soil Lead Concentrations in the Pre-Draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment: Upper Columbia River Site” on October 9, 2018.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.